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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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No Polish-US Comparisons on Minority Status To Be Made

The State Department has rejected Ambassador Gronouski's suggestion that the US take up Gomulka's implicit May Day invitation to compare the lot of Polish-Americans in the US with that of the Jews in Poland.

Gronouski suggested that a Polish group be invited to examine the opportunities available to Americans of Polish origin, and thus disprove Gomulka's charges that their situation is worse than that of the Jews in Poland. A similar US group would go to Poland to examine the lot of the Jews there, according to the Gronouski proposal.

GROUP I

Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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The State Department pointed out that the US would "see considerable difficulty in accepting a delegation from a foreign country sent to investigate the status of a segment of the US population," and that "in any event, the findings of such a Polish official group could only be adverse and thus possibly counterproductive."

Gomulka's statement reflected increasing official pique at Poland's bad press in the West reporting the anti-Semitic character of the current purges. Recent statements on the situation in Poland made in the US Congress have also been attacked in the Polish press. On 30 April, Polish Ambassador Michalowski "objected" to, but did not "protest," this "interference in Polish internal affairs" at the State Department.

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May Day in West Berlin

The well-policed May Day demonstrations in West Berlin were held without the anticipated bloodshed and rioting.

Some 70-80,000 workers gathered at the Reichstag in what was described as a lackluster affair starring Foreign Minister Brandt and Mayor Schuetz. All of the speakers, including Brandt and Schuetz, devoted more time to condemning radicalism, both left and right, than to the pressing problem of Berlin access posed by the East German travel bans.

Brandt avoided mention of current discussions involving countermeasures against the bans, and said only that "routine protests are not enough." Schuetz's remarks concerning access were similar conflicting with his earlier statements in which he disavowed countermeasures and his position on the visit of two East German trade officials to the Hannover fair earlier in the week. At that time he said it would not do for West Germany to close its borders just because the East Germans are causing trouble.

Leftist student groups staged a simultaneous rally in the worker sections of Neukoelln and Kreuzberg which attracted some 25,000 people. A substantial number of police were interspersed with the marchers as a security measure. The small turnout of onlookers shouted such phrases as "go to the East." while some hecklers resorted to more unpleasant suggestions like "throw a hand grenade in" and "pour gasoline

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on them and light the whole bunch." Police intervened only once to break up onlookers burning a red flag, and act which threatened to provoke a group of leftist students nearby.

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Anti-Regime Incidents Mar East German Festivities

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Pre-May Day vandalism occurred in at least one Bezirk in East Germany this week. In a small town near Cottbus anti-regime oriented vandals tore down decorative flags and destroyed a bust of Ernst Thaelmann, the martyred German Communist murdered by the Nazis. The traditional May Pole was torn down in a neighboring town.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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